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To: Chairperson Lea Marquez Peterson
Commissioner Sandra Kennedy
Commissioner Justin Olsen
Commissioner Anna Tovar
Commissioner Jim O'Connor

ARIZONA
CORPORATION COMMISSION

JAN 19 2021

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From: 115 Arizona Clergy and Faith Leaders

Date: January 14, 2021

As faith leaders in Arizona, **we applaud an 11/13 vote by the Arizona Corporation Commission requiring utilities to be 100% carbon-free by 2050.** We celebrate that the bipartisan decision also establishes a new energy efficiency policy to help customers save money on their electric bills. We affirm:

*A **carbon-free electricity standard** that requires Arizona Public Service (APS) and Tucson Electric Power (TEP) to be 100% carbon-free by 2050 and reduce their carbon emissions by 50% by 2032 and 75% by 2040.

*An **energy efficiency standard** that requires APS and TEP to cut energy waste over the next decade and provide customers with more rebates and services to replace old air conditioners, swap out inefficient water heaters, and otherwise save energy.

*A **distributed storage standard** that will drive the deployment of more than ~200 megawatts of customer-owned or leased energy storage systems by 2035, the equivalent of ~40,000 home battery storage systems

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Arizona Corporation Commission

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***Improvements to the integrated resource planning process** that will support greater transparency and stakeholder engagement as utilities develop their 15-year plans for the power system, as well as favorable siting for renewable energy in fossil fuel impacted communities.

As Arizona faith leaders, we understand the urgency of responding to climate change, and we commend the Commission's decision. We are all called to care for God's creation. **We urge the newly elected Commissioners to follow through on this important step for a cleaner, healthier and more just energy future.**

Sincerely,

Rev. Jay Hartley, Regional Minister and President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Arizona

Rev. Dr. William M. Lyons, Conference Minister, Southwest Conference United Church of Christ

The Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer, Bishop, Grand Canyon Synod, ELCA

Rev. Jennifer Reddall, Bishop Grand Canyon Synod, Episcopal Church

Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata, Resident Bishop, Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church

Rev. Katie Sexton, Executive Director, Arizona Faith Network

Rev. Doug Bland, Executive Director, Arizona Interfaith Power & Light

Msgr. Tom Cahalane, Pastor Emeritus, Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church, Tucson

Rabbi Nina Perlmutter, Rabbi Emerita Congregation Lev Shalom, Flagstaff

Rev. Jan Flaaten, Former Executive Director, Arizona Ecumenical Council

Rev. Terry Sims, Unitarian Universalist Church, Surprise

Deacon Don Crawford, Saint Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, Chandler

Fr. Tom Enneking, OSC, Crosier Fathers and Brothers, Phoenix

Fr. Andre Dargis, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Scottsdale

The Rev. Dr. Eric O. Ledermann, University Presbyterian Church, Tempe

Laurel Harding, Earth Justice Ministry of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix

Rev. Rock R. Fremont, Jr., Shepherd of the Hills United Church of Christ, Phoenix

Nicole Horeherder, Director, To Nizhoni Ani

Rev. Susan Valiquette, First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Phoenix

Rev. Ken Page, Orangewood Presbyterian Church, Phoenix

Rev. Bart Smith, St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, Tucson

Cooper Davis, Sustainability Coordinator, Brophy College Preparatory, Phoenix

The Rev. Canon Pam Hyde, Canon for Creation Care, Episcopal Diocese of Arizona

Rev. Michael Patzloff, Faith United Methodist Church, Phoenix

Rev. Jenny Wynn, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Scottsdale

Sakina Al-Amin, Outreach Director, Arizona Council on American-Islamic Relations

Rev. Fred Wooden, Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Chandler

Rev. Ailsa Guardiola Gonzalez, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Tucson

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Eddie Chavez Calderon, Arizona Jews for Justice, Phoenix

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Rabbi Mari Chernow, Temple Chai, Phoenix

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Rev. Kate Lehman, St. Teresa of Avila Ecumenical Catholic Communion, Phoenix

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Rev. Stephen Govett, Trinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix

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